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BRINGING HARMONY

Monks from the Dzongkar Choede Monastery in Tibet are seen Wednesday in the beginning stages of creating a mandala at the Calgary Central Library. More coverage, metroNEWS. LUCIE EDWARDSON/FOR METRO

Bryce's bike found

KEEPSAKE

BMX owned by 11-year-old boy who died in October

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Weeks after their late son Bryce's prized possession — a red BMX-style bike that the 11-year-old spent months building by hand — was stolen from their backyard shed, Malcolm Eyjolfson and Kerri Workman had started to give up hope it would ever be found.

So the couple was surprised Monday when Malcolm got a call from police saying the stolen ride had been recovered.

It was one year, to the day, after Bryce first brought the completed bike home.

As Metro reported in May, the bike had become a treasured keepsake for the family after Bryce died in October.

They had been holding on to it as a memento of happier times, but planned to donate the bicycle so another child could enjoy it.

After the theft in May, the family shared their story publicly, pleading for the thief or thieves to come forward.

Meanwhile, the same officer who had the duty of informing Malcolm and Kerri of Bryce's death also set out, going door to door in their community of Dover, looking for clues.

Kerri said they were "elated" to have the bike returned, but what happened next was even more surprising — and moving.

"That night, we were just eating some dinner, just grateful to have the bike home, and then we got a knock on the door…"

Who was at the door?
MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Celebs to judge Tim Hortons doughnut contest. **Business**

Diluted 'sunshine list' of city salaries released

CIVIL SERVICE

Jobs and pay ranges disclosed, but not staff names

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

There are at least 1,592 different job titles at the City of Calgary and, if you want to know the salary ranges for each one, they're now all in a single list.

But what you won't find on this list, which is essentially Calgary's watered-down version of a "sunshine list," are employee names or exact salary amounts.

At the provincial level and in other jurisdictions, so-called sunshine lists inform the public of precise salaries for each government employee whose salary is above a certain threshold. On Calgary's version, there are just job titles and salary ranges.

It's a small step toward greater transparency that city manager Jeff Fielding admitted Wednesday doesn't go as far as the disclosure policies he got used to during 13 years working in Ontario, where municipalities routinely publish the full compensation of their top-earning employees.

"I don't think people like to have their salaries in the newspaper," Fielding said. "But, as a public servant, that's something you have to get accustomed to."

Fielding said he wasn't aware of any strong evidence to show sunshine lists result in overall higher or lower salaries, but he noted they "did have an impact in terms of paying attention to what we pay people within the organization."

Calgary's new list informs us the highest-paid city employee is the city manager, with a base salary range of $265,000 to $350,000, without naming Fielding directly.

Fielding's base salary was disclosed when he was hired last year, however, to be $315,000.

But disclosing all staff members' names and salaries in a single list could be legally problematic under Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, according to the city's human-resources manager, Doris Wilson.

The provincial government produces such a list, but that's because of a directive from the Alberta Treasury Board that "basically trumps the FOIP Act," Wilson said.

Much of the salary-range information on Calgary's list has also been made previously available to the public, in bits and pieces, through city job postings.

Some councillors have questioned the purpose of creating a standalone list that contains such limited new information, and the idea was initially defeated by a narrow vote at city council last November.

It was revived, however, after Coun. Joe Magliocca realized over the dinner break of that meeting he had misunderstood the question and wanted to change his vote, which council allowed.

The 2015 Compensation Disclosure List, as it's officially named, also includes a half-dozen pages outlining, in general terms, the pension, dental, health, life-insurance and other benefits available to city employees.

A total of 13,092 city employees are caught up in the list, but some are exempt, including some staff in the offices of the city councillors, civic partners and police.

The Calgary Police Service released its own separate list of salary ranges Wednesday as well.

City manager Jeff Fielding is Calgary's highest-paid civil servant, according to the 2015 Compensation Disclosure List. METRO FILE

FULL LIST

Find all the salary ranges online at metronews.ca.

REACTION

Councillors pushing for more transparency

Two city councillors will push their colleagues — and the Alberta government — for an even sunnier version of Calgary's cloudy sunshine list.

Coun. Ward Sutherland wouldn't even use the "sunshine" phrase to refer to the 2015 Compensation Disclosure List the city released Wednesday. "What we saw today was a job-posting list," he said. "It wasn't anything more than that."

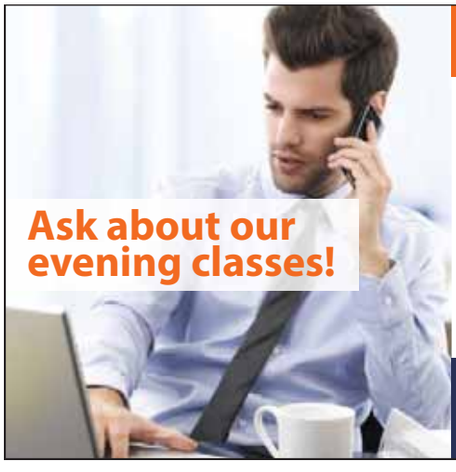
Sutherland didn't blame city staff for a lack of substantive information on the list, but said he now plans to work with Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart to convince council colleagues to take another step toward salary transparency.

Sutherland said council, under current provincial law, could adopt a "partial sunshine list" that includes total compensation for a given position, including benefits, rather than just salary ranges.

Adding names to the list would require a change in Alberta's privacy law, according to city lawyers.

Colley-Urquhart said she plans to continue lobbying the province to mandate municipalities to publish annual salary disclosures, with names, excluding police.

"I fear that if we keep coming back to council and asking for more detail, that it won't pass," she said. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO



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IN BRIEF

Child sent to hospital after three-storey fall

Calgary EMS said a five-year-old girl is in hospital in serious, but stable condition following a fall from a third-floor window.

According to a release from Calgary EMS, paramedics were called to Cranford Drive SE at around 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday after the youngster fell between seven to 10 metres.

When paramedics arrived on scene, they found the girl had landed on a wooden table before rolling onto a cement landing.

The child was taken to the Alberta Children's Hospital with soft-tissue and possible internal injuries, but at the time of transport, the injuries were not considered life-threatening. Calgary EMS are now reminding residents to take extra caution when it comes to securing windows and doors during the summer months.

METRO

Contractor fraud cases prompt public warning

Police are asking Calgarians to be extra careful when hiring contractors to do repairs and construction on their homes.

The Calgary Police Service Economic Crimes Unit said in a release that there have been six cases of fraud involving contractors reported since May and that there have already been 10 this year in total.

Investigators warn citizens to only hire properly licensed and insured contractors, ask contractors for references and to have the contractor sign a written contract that includes a start and end date as well as a total cost.

METRO

More bike racks to be added to network

CYCLING

Most of the 800 new spaces will be near city centre

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Hundreds more bicycle racks are set to be installed in Calgary this year, mainly along the new cycle track network, as the city anticipates an increased need for riders to park their two-wheeled transportation downtown and in the Beltline.

"This is going to be a substantial increase from what we've historically done," Tom Thivener, the city's cycling coordinator, said Wednesday. "It's mainly a heavy, cycle-track focus this summer."

The city routinely installs new bike racks, usually by request, at locations where demand is highest. But Thivener said this mass installation will be like nothing Calgary has witnessed to date.

About 1,900 new bike-parking spaces were installed citywide between 2002 and 2014.

This year the city aims to add 800 more, mostly in the centre-city area, as a direct result of the Centre City Cycle Track Network.

The new separated bike lanes along 12 Avenue South and 5 Street SW, in particular, are on roadways that haven't historically been bike routes, Thivener noted.

"We're trying to really bump up the numbers," he said.

More racks will also be installed along 8 Avenue South, although it already has space to park about 270 bikes, Thivener said.

The installations have already begun on 12 Avenue and will continue throughout the city all summer.

"It's not a huge cluster of bike racks," Thivener said. "It's just making sure each block has adequate bike parking."

The plan doesn't include a major addition to Stephen Avenue, however, and Downtown Business Association executive director Maggie Schofield said that section of the cycle-track network doesn't seem to need more bike racks.

"Very seldom are they at capacity," she said.

Hundreds of bikes were locked up in these temporary racks next to Barb Scott Park on Sunday during a cycle track launch party hosted by Ward 8 Coun. Evan Woolley. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

300
The number of new bike spaces to be added along the 12 Avenue South cycle track.

220
The number of new bike spaces to be added along the 8 Avenue South cycle track.

120
The number of new bike spaces to be added along the 5 Street SW cycle track.

COUNCIL

Division over plain language progress

Plain and simple does not a council make. After three years of trying to change convoluted language to comprehensible conversation, an audit on the city's plain-language policy shows there's still work to be done.

In 2013, council adopted a plain-language policy to combat jargon and acronym-filled reports causing confusion for the public. The policy included plans to conduct reviews of city materials and council sessions every two years to report back on any progress.

"I haven't noticed a difference, really. Maybe in written reports, but not in verbal reports," Coun. Druh Farrell said Wednesday. "I think we just need better training. This isn't an option, this is a policy."

The 2015 plain-language audit found documents riddled with insider lingo, unsettling use of the passive voice, unnecessarily complicated strings of words and a lack of pronouns like "we" and "you," which the report said could offer a warmer tone.

Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart took the opposite stance, however, saying she thinks the city has struck a happy balance between professional language and comprehensible communication, but doesn't wish to push it too far to one side and dumb down documents.

"Where it's at right now is fine with me," she said. "I don't find the presentations at all difficult to understand."

The 2015 plain-language survey conducted by Ipsos Reid found 88 per cent of respondents thought the city's materials were generally easy to understand.

But 26 per cent of respondents said they did come across convoluted communication from the city. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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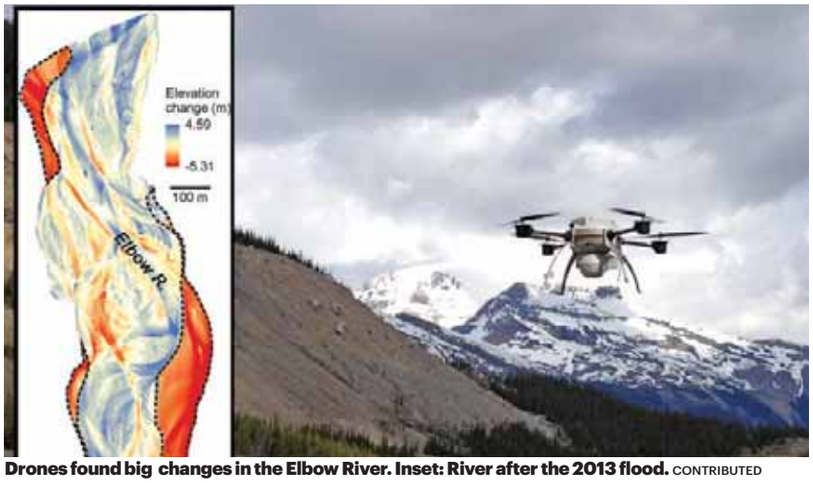

Drones found big changes in the Elbow River. Inset: River after the 2013 flood. CONTRIBUTED

Drone survey was flooded with data

ELBOW RIVER

2013 flood broadened original study of fish habitat

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

It wasn't the study a University of Calgary professor was expecting to undertake as he and a team from the University of British Columbia used drones to collect data from the Elbow River.

A year after their crafts soared along the riverbanks looking to study fish habitats using 3D mapping, a flood — now simply known as "the flood" — swept over much of Calgary and surrounding areas.

Included was a chunk of the Elbow adjacent to Redwood Meadows where Chris Hugenholtz and company had surveyed.

"We started off trying to use drones because we can see centimetre-scale figures over a large area," said Hugenholtz, an associate professor and the Cenovus Research Chair at the University of Calgary.

The opportunity to compare before-and-after data from the previously surveyed land was a gift for the team, who had no idea a flood of that magnitude would put most of that region underwater.

"We revisited the area after the flood and I remember just walking in to set up for doing our drone survey and 100 metres of the bank had disappeared in front of us as we walked out to where we had set up the year previous."

In before-and-after comparisons, Hugenholtz said the impact of the flood changed the Elbow's channel, adding that the riverbed was "armoured" by the flood, and recreating the 2013 event in the river's new situation wouldn't have the same impact.

> **"After the flood ... 100 metres of the bank had disappeared."**
> Chris Hugenholtz, University of Calgary

"We've measured how the channel has widened and it's also straightened quite a bit," Hugenholtz said.

"The gravel size that dominates certain areas of the channel is now much larger in the area we studied and all of that combined changes how water moves through the river and how it will move through in the next flood."

TRAFFIC

Driving with kids? Don't let them ride in a cardboard box

An Airdrie parent is being charged with speeding and failing to secure her child after an RCMP officer discovered the kid was hiding in a cardboard box in the back seat.

On June 23 RCMP were surprised to hear rustling in the back seat of a car after it was pulled over for speeding.

"As I talked to the driver, I noticed the cardboard box was moving. I asked what was in the box and I was shocked when I saw a child's hand pop out and wave," said RCMP Sgt. Darrin Turnbull.

"The driver told me the child had refused to stay in the child seat and wanted to play in the box. It was obvious who was in charge of things in that vehicle — but the adult got the ticket."

The name of the parent isn't being released.

RCMP are reminding parents that when it comes to driving with kids there's no lenience. Kids must be secured in their safety seats.

METRO

Boxes are no replacement for kids' car seats, the RCMP warns. PHOTO COURTESY RCMP

USED CARS TO BE SOLD FOR $1

Carl Holst, Sales Manager of Stampede Toyota, just announced plans to hold a One dollar used car and truck sales event Taking **Place** only on **Saturday June 27, 2015.** According to Mr. Holst record sales from the last few months have resulted in an overstock of trade-ins. "In the last three months our sales have increased at a tremendous rate", Holst said. "Now, we must reduce the number of cars and trucks on our used lot to a more manageable number. During this $1 sale every used car and truck will be sold for hundreds or thousands below its original price." Mr. Holst said. "In fact, cars that normally sell for five to eight thousand dollars will be sold for three to five thousand," Mr. Holst said. "Our customers will find these prices even lower than at wholesale auctions." Auction bidding often inflates the true value of a car so you pay more. Here every car is on sale, first come first served and no bidding. It's the perfect opportunity to get a good quality used car at the lowest price possible, including cars for only One dollar. **All cars will be on display at Stampede Toyota on Barlow Trail, 2 blocks North of the Trans Canada Highway.** At 7:30 am all vehicles will be opened so that buyers may inspect the vehicles for one hour before the sale begins at 8:30 am when the prices are posted on the windshield you will be given the first opportunity to purchase the vehicle at the sale price. This innovative approach to selling used vehicles will make it easy and quick for anybody in the market for a good used vehicle to get a great car or truck at a very low price with no hassle.

One of Calgary's largest Toyota certified used vehicle dealers is overstocked and is forced to sell used cars and trucks for as low as $1, Saturday June 27, 2015 during a one-day sale event.

"Wholesale buyers will be represented to take trade-ins during the sale," Mr. Holst said. "We also have three business managers who will help buyers arrange low-cost financing. We've got over $10 Million Dollars in inventory to choose from. Our total inventory will be close to 600 new and used cars and trucks. We want to remind everyone that this is a **one-day sale only.** When our inventory has been reduced, we will remove the sale prices and return to normal operations. Since we are a local business we would like to give back to the community," Mr. Holst said. "We would rather allow local people to buy these overstocked vehicles than wholesale them at an auction." All cars will be reduced every hour and there will be 12 cars that will be reduced every hour until they get to $1. These special $1 sale cars are in a separate section at the front of the dealership. Due to the volume of sales during this event, please no telephone inquiries.

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Thief returns precious bicycle

MEMORIES

Contrite man owns up to theft after reading Metro

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

When Malcolm Eyjolfson and Kerri Workman pleaded publicly last month for the person who stole their late son Bryce's bike to "just do the right thing," they hoped the thief would listen and bring the custom BMX back.

Well, he did more than that.

On Tuesday night, the couple answered a knock at their door to find a young, tattooed man who introduced himself as Shane and admitted to stealing the bike from their shed in May, not realizing until later that it had belonged to their deceased son.

As Metro reported last month, Bryce died in October in an accident believed to be related to "the choking game" — an activity among young people that gained attention in 2014 after being linked to a series of deaths. The goal is to cut off one's air intake to the point of a quick, euphoric rush, but it can have tragic consequences.

Before he died, Bryce's bike was one of his most prized possessions; he built it himself through a community program at the Forest Lawn Library.

Shane, inset, returned a bike with parts from the bike of Malcolm Eyjolfson and Kerri Workman's late son. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

> **Maybe this all happened for a reason.**
> Kerri Workman

But Shane knew none of this when he took the bike.

"He said he didn't realize the impact of his actions until he read the story in the Metro," Workman said. "He just felt compelled to come and speak to us face-to-face and own up to his actions."

The man had another bike in tow that he wanted to return personally, as it included parts he had stripped from Bryce's bike. Police had returned the bulk of Bryce's partly disassembled bike to Eyjolfson earlier in the day.

The couple said they were stunned to see this man show up at their doorstep with the rest of the bike parts and a seemingly genuine sense of contrition.

"This gentleman had a sincere look on his face," Eyjolfson said. "We got talking to him, and he said he's been a thief all his life. He's 23 years old. For the last little while he'd been living with guilt and, after reading our story, he said he couldn't handle it anymore and he wanted to own up to his mistakes. He felt ashamed."

The couple spoke with Shane for about 15 minutes and at one point, he wanted to apologize to Bryce, as well. "We have a little, special, Bryce memorial set up in our yard, and he went and paid respect to our son," Workman recalled. "He said, 'I'm sorry little man. I'll learn from this.'"

"He just genuinely seemed moved," she added. "He said he was going to try to turn his life around and make better choices moving forward."

"We never ever expected the person who actually took it to actually come and own up to their actions and apologize to our faces," Workman said. "I think that was really brave. And, if this young man now turns around and changes his whole life for the better, well, maybe this all happened for a reason."

Proceeds from this year's tournament will go towards the John Campbell Memorial Award in support of an Automotive Service Technician apprentice.

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Small business pairs up with local artists

REWORKS STUDIO

Art exchanged for workspace

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

When it comes to finding artist spaces, the president of the Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA) said creatives are still having trouble.

"There's a shortage," said Patti Pon, president and CEO of CADA. "Space is certainly something that continues to be identified in 2015 for artists."

Pon said she's not simply talking about places artists can work, but affordable and safe spots.

Artists could find a solution in the Reworks studio set up by owner Solita Work, who uses the various tools and surfaces to produce products for her store.

She set up the tucked-away area back in February and has seen interest from artists gradually pick up.

"We always have a lot of trouble finding new items to keep the store fresh," Work said. "I know that Calgary doesn't have a lot of art space, so I was hoping that once we get the word out we'd have artists coming in who want to experiment with some recycled materials."

Pon said such initiatives should be applauded.

"I think Reworks is a great example of how small business and other enterprises can look to include artists literally, physically as well as on a sort of philosophical or aesthetic level," said Pon.

But Work's studio isn't a free-for-all. In exchange for using the space, artists would produce items she could eventually sell in her store. Therefore, she takes care in selecting the work that is created in her shop.

Solita Work stands beside her workshop sign in her store.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

ACCIDENT

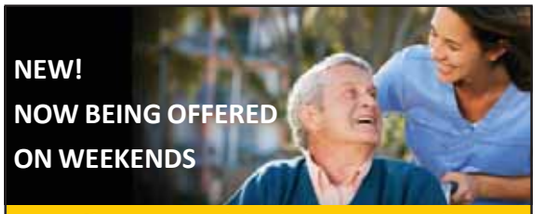
Two-vehicle crash sends man, pair of women to hospital

Three people were taken to hospital on Wednesday following a two-vehicle collision in the area of Highway 2A and Aldersyde at around 6:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.

According to a release from Calgary EMS, paramedics from Okotoks, High River and Black Diamond responded to the scene, and all three patients were transported to hospital with minor traumatic injuries.

Two women, believed to be in their 30s and 40s, were transported to Foothills Medical Centre, while a third person, a man believed to be in his 30s, was taken to High River General Hospital.

All three were taken to hospital via ground ambulance.
METRO



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PARKS AND RECREATION

Amateur athletes causing pee problems

Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

Recreational athletes in Edmonton are apparently leaving it all on the field — and that's becoming a wee bit of a problem.

A recent email from the Edmonton Sport and Social Club has warned members that the city has received "numerous complaints" about members "urinating in public and also drinking while playing their games."

The warning is blunt: "Urinating in public can result in the ESSC losing fields, potentially compromising games."

It's not a limited problem, apparently. The Edmonton Area Mixed Slo Pitch Association has also posted a similar warning about the issue on their website, reminding players to refrain from emptying their bladder on sports fields.

According to city data, the number of tickets issued as of June under the Parkland Bylaw and Public Places Bylaw for "urination or defecation in a public place" is slightly higher than all of 2014.

Last year, seven warnings were given and 11 tickets were handed out, while 12 tickets and four warnings under the same bylaws have been given in the first half of 2015.

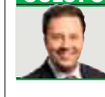
Still, despite the complaints from residents and what the data shows, the numbers are consistent with previous years, said Chrystal Coleman, communications advisor with community services branch, in an email to Metro.

Fines for individuals caught publicly urinating or drinking in public parks can range from $250 to $500, the ESSC email said. The email also said the organization is considering adding porta-potties to fields to avoid the problem, which would increase season fees for players.

Calgary Police arrest a man in July of 2013 who claimed to be a part of the Freeman on the Land. METRO FILE

'Freemen on the Land' a danger to all

GUEST COLUMN



Jonathan Denis
For Metro | Calgary

There's been a lot of attention to the "Freemen on the Land" movement recently — especially after the alleged link to Norman Walter Raddatz, the accused killer of Edmonton police officer Daniel Woodall.

The death of any police or peace officer is beyond tragic. Sadly, this isn't the first time that people associated with the "Freemen" movement have caused injury, death or other trouble in our society.

The Freemen movement — also known as Sovereign Citizens — goes back to the 1970s and now reaches into the United States, Ireland, United Kingdom and Canada. They operate under the false premise that people can somehow "contract out" of laws that apply to us all — including paying income tax. Some estimates indicate that there are 30,000 followers of the Freemen movement in Canada alone.

The concept of the "rule of law" — that each one of us is equal before the law, regardless of means, status or position — can be traced back to antiquity. This principle is the reason that police and Crown prosecutors operate independently of any political authority — the law applies to everyone, regardless of their place in society.

No court in Canada has upheld any of the Freeman's outlandish claims. As such, it may seem that the Freemen are a group that's simply "out there" and that they don't cause any harm to us at all.

Unfortunately, this would be wishful thinking.

In 2010, Freemen in West Memphis, Ark., shot and killed two police officers during a routine traffic stop. It's because of activities such as this that United States government has declared the Freemen a "domestic terrorist" movement.

Closer to home, many will recall the situation in 2013 where a Freeman in Calgary refused to pay rent or leave a private residence because he declared it an "embassy." Fortunately, this situation was resolved without injury — but similar lunacy has been repeated in different countries over the last several decades.

More often, Freemen will make completely baseless applications in our court system. This can clog up our courts, pushing more legitimate civil and criminal matters back on the docket — wasting our tax dollars. This is why, since 2010, court clerks have the right to reject certain documents that are massive or incomprehensible — simply designed to cause mayhem in a particular court action.

It's almost certain that the Freemen movement will continue to try to recruit new members and engage in destructive tactics. Police monitor this group, and our government needs to provide police with the appropriate tools to act as the Freemen's tactics change.

Bottom line for each one of us — if someone comes to your door claiming there's a way to avoid paying income tax or that you can somehow sidestep all of the laws in Canada (for a fee) — send them packing.

Jonathan Denis is a former MLA and attorney general.

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Tibetan monks perform a blessing at the Calgary Central Library before beginning work on their mandala. LUCIE EDWARDSON/FOR METRO

Tibetan monks bless library

CEREMONY

Mandala part of a tour to raise funds

They began with a prayer, blessing the floors of Calgary's biggest library, before toiling away on a meticulous work of art.

Three Tibetan monks representing the Dzongkar Choede Monastery were hard at work at Calgary's Central Library Wednesday creating a mandala from millions of tiny pieces of dyed, crushed white marble.

Lynn Chazotsang, spokeswoman for the monks, said that the purpose of mandala ceremonies is to bring harmony to the world.

"They will invite all the Buddhas to bless the area and help them to bring the energy of global peace as they create the mandala," she said.

Chazotsang said the mandala ceremony training is quite rigorous. It consists of a one month retreat with 16 hour days that include special prayers, recitation of mantra along with meditation and visualization.

"When they go on retreat their day is very intense," she said.

The monks performed the ceremony for the deity of medicine at the library today. They have previously performed the mandala ceremony for the compassion deity at Knox United Church.

Library spokeswoman Katherine Cormack said they were honoured to host the monks and witness the mandala ceremony.

"It's one of the most important things to do because it's related to educating the city about not only different faiths but about different ways of thinking in the broader world," said Cormack.

"Calgary is a really diverse city, so I think to have a snapshot of that right here in the library and the patrons can take some of that peace and compassion home with them and on their journey throughout the day, then we can begin to bring about change," she said.

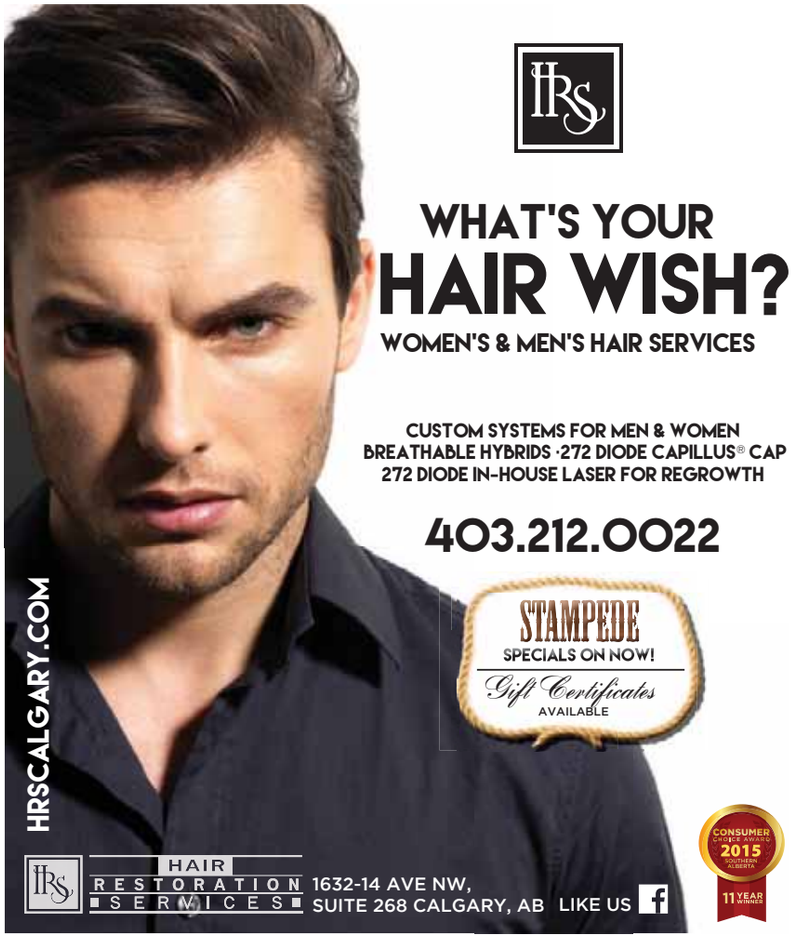
> **When they go on retreat, their day is very intense.**
> Lynn Chazotsang

The monks are making mandalas throughout the city and province as a part of a tour to raise money for education and medical care in the villages near their monastery.

The mandala created at the library Wednesday will remain there until June 27, at which time it will be destroyed and the Ritual Master, Lopon Jampa Sopa, will address the meaning and purpose of the creation.

"Once they are done they just sweep it away; it symbolizes impermanence and reminds us that no matter how beautiful something is you must never get attached because it only brings suffering," said Chazotsang.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/FOR METRO



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Calgary family designated puppy raisers

Curtis Kodama with his new furry friend Clive, who will soon be heading to obedience classes. JENNIFER FRIESEN/ FOR METRO

POOCH PROGRAM

Black Lab pup will be trained as a guide dog

Lucie Edwardson
For Metro | Calgary

There was a distinct feeling of excitement radiating off Brad Kodama and his son Curtis as they waited for seven-month-old Clive at the Calgary International Airport Wednesday afternoon.

Clive, a black Lab puppy, arrived in Calgary from Vancouver as a part of the B.C and Alberta guide dog program.

The pooch was greeted with hugs and kisses from the Kodamas, his designated puppy raisers.

"We just feel very fortunate that we were selected to be a part of this program because we have done a lot of research and see what good work they do," said Brad.

Clive will be living with the Kodama family for the next 12 to 18 months. They will attend weekly obedience classes with Clive specifically designed to train him to become a guide dog or autism support dog.

Sandra Cramer, puppy-raising supervisor for Alberta Guide Dogs, said that there are a few necessary qualities for a puppy raiser to possess, including patience and love.

Cramer said that after they finish the program, puppy raisers say a bittersweet goodbye.

"Even though there are tears at the end they go into it with the idea that they are trying to help somebody and change someone's life," she said.

To learn about becoming a puppy raiser, visit bcguidedog.com.

CAMPAIGN

Calgary cabs against domestic violence

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

Next time Calgarians hail a Checker Yellow Cab, they may be getting more than just a ride.

That's thanks to a new partnership between the HomeFront Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Checker Transportation Group.

Wednesday marked the launch of a new campaign called My HomeFront, aimed at raising awareness about the organization by decalling roughly 800 cabs in Calgary.

Using the American Sign Language for "I love you," as a symbol, organizers hope the campaign takes a different approach from traditional campaigns — which depict bruised and battered women — and replace it with something unifying.

"We believe that everybody deserves a home where love is built, grown and cultivated," said HomeFront executive director Maggie MacKillop.

Members of the public are asked to take a selfie with the logo and upload it to social media with the #myhomefront hashtag to show they want to stop domestic violence.

"We're really trying to say that it takes a community to end domestic violence and we want the community to show their love and support and say I care," said MacKillop.

Kurt Enders with Checker Transportation Group said having the decal and information on the side of the cab will make sure those potentially impacted by abuse know the resources exist.

"I think there's people out there that don't know where to turn ... and are in a violent situation and this might be the message that might help them," he said.

The My HomeFront campaign logo. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

IN BRIEF

Search crews find remains of second man killed in Fort McMurray plane crash

Mounties say they have found the bodies of two people killed when two planes collided in mid-air in northeastern Alberta.

Cpl. George Cameron says search crews located the remains of one man outside a large area scattered with debris from one of the planes.

The body of the other man was discovered earlier in the wreckage.

The two Cessnas collided Sunday night east of Fort McMurray.

One plane landed safely at the Fort McMurray airport and the lone pilot was uninjured.

McMurray Aviation has identified the dead as flight instructor Nabeel Chaudhry, 33, of Edmonton and student Amjed Ahmed, 32, of Fort McMurray.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New spying law not needed: CSIS

PRIVACY

Workarounds possible within existing legislation

The Conservative government alarmed privacy advocates by overhauling the law to give Canada's spy agency easier access to federal data — even though the spies themselves said greater information-sharing could be done under existing laws, newly released documents show.

In a presentation to federal deputy ministers last year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said "significant improvements" to the sharing of national-security information were possible within the "existing legislative framework."

The Canadian Press obtained a heavily censored copy of the secret February 2014 presentation and a related memo to CSIS director Michel Coulombe under the Access to Information Act.

Earlier this year, the government introduced a broad security bill that included the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act.

The legislation, which recently received royal assent, permits the sharing of information about activity that undermines the security of Canada, something law professors Craig Forcese and Kent Roach called "a new and astonishingly broad concept."

Privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien denounced the law's scope as "clearly excessive," saying it could make available all federally held information about someone of interest to as many as 17 government departments and agencies.

In the 2014 memo to Coulombe, CSIS assistant director Tom Venner stressed the importance of timely and reliable information exchanges, and he lamented the patchwork of existing authorities that hindered sharing. However, he added that laws and arrangements "often allow for the sharing of information for national security purposes." Venner cited a number of recently successful pilot projects and outlined "future opportunities" for sharing — all of them deleted from the memo.

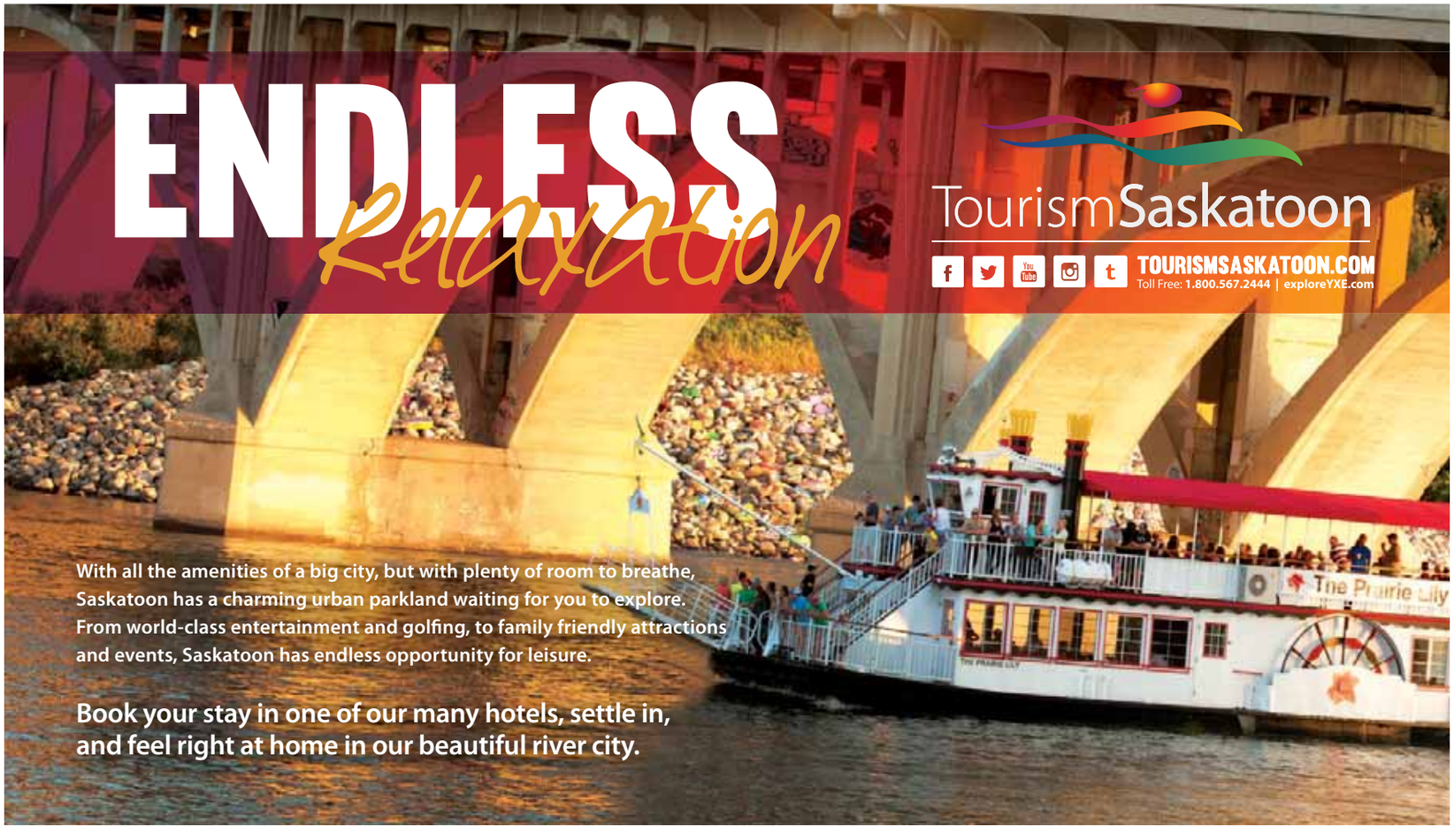
> **(Existing laws) often allow for the sharing of information for national security purposes.**
> TomVenner, CSIS assistant director

CSIS clearly saw "room for workarounds" in the existing law "with a little bit more coordination within government," Forcese said in an interview.

The spy agency's memo seems "to belie the whole justification for the controversial information-sharing regime" in the government's anti-terrorism bill, Forcese said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VALUES MEAL QUEBEC CAMPAIGN Prime Minister Stephen Harper pauses from handing out chicken dinners during Quebec's Fete National. The PM told a gathering of Tory candidates that Conservative values are Quebec values. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS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The Prairie Lily

‘I am sorry for the lives that I’ve taken’: Bomber

BOSTON

Tsarnaev, 21, breaks two years of silence with apology

In a startling turn, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev apologized for the lethal attack for the first time Wednesday just before a judge formally sentenced him to death.

“I am sorry for the lives that I’ve taken, for the suffering that I’ve caused you, for the damage that I’ve done — irreparable damage,” the 21-year-old college student said, breaking more than two years of public silence.

To the victims, he said: “I pray for your relief, for your healing.’’

After Tsarnaev said his piece, U.S. District Judge George O’Toole Jr. quoted Shakespeare’s line about “The evil that men do lives after them” and told Tsarnaev that no one will remember that his teachers were fond of him, that his friends found him fun to be with or that he showed compassion to disabled people.

Boston bombing survivors Erika Brannock, left, and Rebekah Gregory leave court following the formal sentencing of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Wednesday. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“What will be remembered is that you murdered and maimed innocent people, and that you did it wilfully and intentionally. You did it on purpose,’’ O’Toole said.

The apology came after Tsarnaev listened impassively for about three hours as a procession of victims and their loved ones lashed out at him for his “cowardly’’ and “disgusting” acts.

“He can’t possibly have had a soul to do such a horrible thing,’’ said Karen Rand McWatters, who lost a leg in the attack and whose best friend, 29-year-old Krystle Campbell, was killed.

The judge was required under law to impose the jury’s death sentence for the April 15, 2013, attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260.

The only real suspense was whether Tsarnaev would say anything when given a chance to speak. Until Wednesday, he had said almost nothing publicly since his arrest more than two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONFEDERATE BANNER

Flag not ‘hateful,’ actor says

The Confederate flag is not a hateful symbol but instead a banner with positive historical context despite “the few thousand people that run around wearing sheets and committing atrocities,’’ said Ben Jones, the Dukes of Hazzard actor and former Democratic congressman.

Jones spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday from Sperryville, Va., where he owns a store that celebrates the fictional Hazzard County from his TV show. He runs two other Cooter’s Place stores in Nashville and Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Jones said his stores will never stop selling Confederate items even as national retailers such as Wal-Mart drop them in the wake of the massacre of nine people at a black church in Charleston.

“We’re not changing anything in stores. There’s no reason to change anything,” Jones said. “We despise racism.”

He added: “It’s not a hateful symbol, and we despise that it’s being used by bigots and hate groups.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sears Windows & Doors

ZIMBABWE

Bush meat donated to quell prison riots

A quarter ton of meat from wild animals could be just the ticket to ending the unrest in Zimbabwe's Chikurubi maximum security prison where inmates have been rioting over their meatless diet.

Over the weekend, Zimbabwe's National Parks and Wildlife Authority donated 250 kilograms of bush meat for the 4,600 inmates whose diet has consisted of only porridge and cabbage despite regulations that they should receive meat at least three times a week.

Prison food woes amount to more evidence of a debilitating economic downturn that has left the Zimbabwean government struggling to meet its obligations, including paying civil servants on time. In March, riot police had to use water cannons against university students whose own food protests caused classes to be suspended for a time.

Close to a thousand prisoners rioted in February and then more seriously in March over the lack of meat for the last three years. Guards opened fire on the inmates who rioted after they refused to eat their cabbage lunch. Five people were killed.

Prison officials described the riot, in which prisoners set fire to blankets, newspapers and even the roof, as an escape attempt and later tried nine alleged leaders. During their trials, however, the prisoners maintained they were protesting the lack of meat.

"For the past three years, the prisoners did not eat any meat. The first meat that the prisoners ate was (when) the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority provided us with 250 kilograms of meat," prison official Gilbert Marange told members of the parliamentary committee on defence, home affairs and security, who toured the prison on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ANIMALS FLAMINGO GETS A LEG UP A Chilean flamingo stands with the help of a specially-made prosthetic leg, at a zoo in Sorocaba, Brazil, Tuesday. The six-year-old bird fractured his left leg one month ago and it was partially amputated to halt an infection. NELSON ANTOINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen may move for renovation

THE ROYALS

Buckingham Palace needs nearly $300M in upgrades

Queen Elizabeth II may have to move out of Buckingham Palace during much-needed renovations to the residence, which has not been substantially redecorated since she took the throne in 1952, royal officials said Wednesday.

Officials say the palace needs an estimated 150 million pounds (C$291 million) of renovation and upgrades, including replacing old plumbing and wiring and removing asbestos. Having her move out during the work is one option being considered.

The queen has several other residences but spends about a third of her time in the London palace, which was first used by her ancestor Queen Victoria. It is the site of summer garden parties and scores of ceremonial events each year.

$22.7M

Maintenance of royal properties cost U.K. taxpayers 11.7 million pounds (C$22.7 million) last year.

Keeper of the Privy Purse Alan Reid said maintenance on aging royal buildings, "and in particular Buckingham Palace, will present a significant financial challenge" in the next few years.

Annual accounts published Wednesday showed that the monarchy costs taxpayers 35.7 million pounds ($69.4 million) in the year to March 31, the equivalent of 56 pence per person. That was unchanged from the year before.

Almost half the money, 18.7 million pounds ($36.3 million), was spent on payroll costs, while property maintenance cost 11.7 million pounds ($22.7 million) and 5.1 million pounds ($9.9 million) was spent on official travel. The most expensive trip was an eight-day visit to Colombia and Mexico by Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, which cost almost 450,000 pounds ($875,000).

The queen, who turned 89 in April, has cut back on her public duties but still undertook 196 public engagements during the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Court approves Rogers purchase of Mobilicity

An Ontario court gave its approval for Rogers Communications to buy Mobilicity for about $465 million on Wednesday, a deal that is expected to trigger a series of transactions that will affect wireless customers in Ontario, Alberta and B.C.

Rogers will also sell some spectrum to Wind Mobile, which has emerged as one of the leading challengers to Canada's three biggest wireless companies, and complete a previously announced purchase of spectrum from Shaw.

Rogers said its takeover offer for Mobilicity has also been approved by Industry Canada, which had blocked previous attempts for Telus to buy Mobilicity. It still requires approval from the Competition Bureau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ford announced Tuesday that customers who finance their vehicles through Ford Motor Credit may rent their vehicle to pre-screened drivers for short-term use to offset the monthly costs of owning a vehicle. SETH PERLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Ford launches ride-sharing pilot

Ford is following the ride-sharing craze, launching its own pilot program in six U.S. cities and in London.

Under the program, customers who finance their vehicles through Ford Motor Credit will be able to rent their vehicle to pre-screened drivers for short-term use, helping to defray some monthly vehicle ownership costs.

"As most vehicles are parked and out of use much of the time, this can help us gauge our customers' desires to pick up extra cash and keep their vehicles in use," David McClelland, Ford Credit vice-president of marketing, said in a written statement.

Ford Motor Co. said 14,000 customers in the U.S. will be invited to participate, along with 12,000 in London.

U.S. customers will partake through ride-share company Getaround, while London customers will use easyCar Club.

The program is being offered through November to Ford Credit customers in Chicago, Washington D.C., Portland, Oregon and California locations including Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco.

Ford also said that it has a new electric bicycle, the MoDe:Flex. It's the automaker's third eBike, following the MoDe:Me and MoDe:Pro that launched in March. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duelling Donuts contest kicks off

TIM HORTONS

Deadmau5, Jann Arden participating as celeb judges

One lucky Canadian will be able to add their dream doughnut to the Tim Hortons menu and walk away with $10,000 as winner of the Duelling Donuts contest, launched Wednesday by the coffee chain.

Home chefs have until July 21 to concoct a unique doughnut idea inspired by a family recipe.

Eight quarter-finalists will present their creations to a celebrity panel, including musicians Deadmau5 and Jann Arden and actress Sophie Tweed-Simmons. She's the daughter of Shannon Tweed, a St. John's, N.L.-born actress and model who is married to Kiss bassist Gene Simmons.

After the panel chooses four semifinalists to advance, the public gets to pick two pastries they want to see sold at Tim Hortons.

The finalists will be announced Sept. 1 and sold in Tim Hortons restaurants across Canada early in the new year, with the most popular confection taking home the grand prize.

$10,000

In addition to having your dream doughnut added to Tim Hortons' menu, the winner of Duelling Donuts will also walk away with a $10,000 prize.

Canadian singer-songwriter Jann Arden. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In 2014, Jennifer Brown of Glencoe, Ont., beat out almost 77,000 other entrants with her "Love Reese to Pieces" doughnut, which will be available at Tim Hortons shops for a limited time starting July 15. This chocolate doughnut, filled with a custard centre, is covered in chocolate fondant and topped with chopped peanuts and mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

This is the third year for the contest, launched after Jason Priestley created a doughnut named after himself — "The Priestley," a strawberry-vanilla doughnut with a chocolate Timbit nestled inside — in an episode of How I Met Your Mother. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joel Thomas Zimmerman, better known as Deadmau5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIJUANA

Pot companies to merge, form Canada's largest producer

Tweed Marijuana is offering to buy Bedrocan Cannabis Corp. in a friendly deal that would combine the two companies into what they say would be Canada's largest licensed pot producer.

The deal was worth $61 million when it was announced early Wednesday.

The two companies say the deal would combine Tweed's consumer-oriented business and Bedrocan's base in the clinical and research communities, giving the combined operation a competitive edge in a growing marketplace that opened up in May 2014 after Health Canada updated regulations for the medical use of marijuana.

Together, they have 110 full-time employees and 30 to 50 part-time workers. Tweed has two production facilities in Ontario and distributes marijuana to individual patients. Bedrocan produces and sells pharmaceutical-grade cannabis from Toronto.

According to documents filed with regulators, Tweed had its first revenue a little more than a year ago after its first product shipment in May 2014 and generated about $1.1 million of sales in the year ending Dec. 31, more than half of it in the final three months of last year. Bedrocan had $1.5 million in revenue over the 13 months ending last Jan. 31.

"This has been a stretching exercise," said Bruce Linton, Tweed's chairman and CEO. "You have to have a platform of production, you have to have an education process to bring on the physicians and you have to have something that's desired by the market."

Under the deal announced Wednesday, Bedrocan's shareholders would get a total of 33.9 million common shares of Tweed, giving them 41.6 per cent of the combined company's total equity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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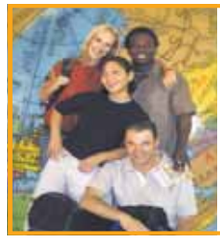
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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE BATTLE FOR QUEBEC

With Gilles Duceppe back in the game, the upcoming federal campaign is turning into a replay of the 2011 fight between the Bloc and the NDP.

By the looks of it, the long-awaited NDP-Liberal battle for Quebec next fall is on ice.

With Gilles Duceppe back in the game, the upcoming federal campaign is turning into a replay of the 2011 fight between the Bloc Québécois and the NDP.

A CROP survey published last weekend gave the NDP (38 per cent) an eight-point lead on the Bloc among francophone voters. A Leger Marketing poll done a few days earlier reported an even closer two-way battle across francophone Quebec.

Watching from the sidelines, Justin Trudeau's Liberals and Stephen Harper's Conservatives split the difference.

Notwithstanding their actual order in voting intentions, none of the four main parties is really where it would like to be in Quebec.

The Bloc has seen its share of support increase by double digits since Duceppe's return. It is climbing out of the basement, but remains at a good distance from the top floor — without a ready-made staircase to get there.

Provincewide, the party's current score is almost identical to its 2011 election night result. In short, Duceppe has brought home the voters that stuck with his sinking party four years ago and gave it four seats that did not include his.

Not all sovereigntists welcomed his return. Many are torn between their desire to see the Conservatives out of power and their loyalty to the cause. Some are angry at the notion that the veteran Bloc leader may facilitate the re-election of a Conservative government by further splitting the opposition vote.

Like most non-Conservative voters, those who switched from the Bloc to the NDP four years ago are more motivated than ever to seek regime change on Parliament Hill. With the NDP on the rise outside Quebec, the incentive to continue to support Thomas Mulcair's party is strong.

The Conservatives are essentially in the same position in voting intentions in Quebec as on election night four years ago. CROP pegged their support at 14 per cent. They won 16 per cent of the vote in 2011. An early-year improvement in Conservative fortunes has turned out to be short-lived.

A more divided opposition vote could help Harper hold on to his handful of Quebec seats and — possibly — win back some of those that were swept up by the orange wave four years ago. But that presumes a second NDP wave is out of the question. Is it really?

A more divided opposition vote could help Harper hold on to his handful of Quebec seats and — possibly — win back some of those that were swept up by the orange wave four years ago.

The Liberals are key to the answer. Trudeau's party has lost a lot of ground in his home province since it led the pack with 35 per cent or more of the vote at the end of last year. At this juncture, Liberal support — at about 24 per cent — hovers around Stéphane Dion's 2008 score. That was the party's best result of the past three elections.

Last year's polls showed that the Liberals have room to go up; the results of the last campaign suggest they could just as easily slip further. Four years ago, Michael Ignatieff led the party to a 14 per cent finish in Quebec. Its losses ended up as gains in the NDP column.

It is a well-established pattern of Quebec political life that in the face of a serious sovereigntist threat, the federalist vote tends to coalesce behind the strongest alternative on offer. The Liberals long benefited from that trend. But in 2011, the advantage shifted to the NDP, where it remains now that Mulcair is back in the lead.

To wit, more than half a dozen candidates are vying for the privilege of taking on Liberal MP Marc Garneau for the NDP in the federalist stronghold of Westmount-Ville-Marie.

The New Democrats look like they are in good shape in Quebec. They rank first with francophones. They have more potential for growth than the Conservatives and they are the second choice of more voters than the Liberals.

But a more combative Bloc brings with it the necessity for the NDP to talk up positions, such as the party's contention that it would accept a simple majority vote for Quebec independence. that are controversial in the rest of Canada.

Duceppe could end up doing more harm to the NDP outside Quebec than in his own province.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: The incredible shrinking gym

All the staples of urban life seem to be scaling down: small cars, small condos and now small gyms — though not for a small price. One-room gyms are in, and the low cost of starting them is turning gym rats and workout instructors into entrepreneurs. Devotees sweat through hour-long sessions in tiny converted storefronts, swinging heavy kettlebells or practising yoga poses. Even steep prices — $30 for a typical class — can't slow the extra-large enthusiasm for a boutique exercise experience.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Clearly, obituaries should be the first thing you flip to.

Obituaries are where it's at.

"It" being dazzling stories that, by exploring the specifics of one person's bizarre or instrumental or unexpected life, say a lot about life in general.

They're not about people dying; they're about people living. And that makes them, ironically, the least depressing part of the news.

The best are playful, soaked in sweet details, and yet honest about someone's good and bad sides. You come out remembering that no one is perfect (or pure evil), which is helpful when you're still alive and trying to be perfect all the time.

They contain the greatest characters, and the oddest asides (a Globe and Mail obituary on parliamentarian Frank Howard notes how stealing a "butterscotch pie from the kitchen window of the Sullivan Hotel" got Howard sent to an orphanage).

Obituaries let us marvel at how single lives can shift the world around them — as with F. Scott Fitzgerald's personal secretary, who died recently. Frances Kroll Ring spent only 20 months with the literary giant, typing pages and cooking meals, before he died in 1940. But she ended up playing a key role in his legacy, advising filmmakers and biographers and even writing a memoir.

Clearly, obituaries should be the first thing you flip to, and some magazines help you out by placing them at the back. Those include the Economist and Maclean's — proving my theory that many things, but magazines in particular, are best read back to front.

The Economist's obituaries — which, in the U.K. tradition, lean heavily on wit and editorializing a life — detail extraordinary people around the globe. They taught me about the indomitable Polish statesmen Władysław Bartoszewski and the grotesquely opulent boyhood of Haitian ruler Baby Doc Duvalier. The stories satisfy, like watching a full sunset, their last lines tying off a life. I once cancelled my subscription because $11 a month seemed like a lot to pay just to read an obituary a week. Then I restarted it.

Being as I am in the middle of a life (or what feels like the middle — who knows when I'll die?), it's probably most satisfying to see how, in an obituary, one thing leads to another. Failures stack up to eventual success, periods of stagnation lead to change. No one, in hindsight, simply flounders, aimless and useless. There's meaning to be gleaned from any life.

Even, you've gotta hope, your own.

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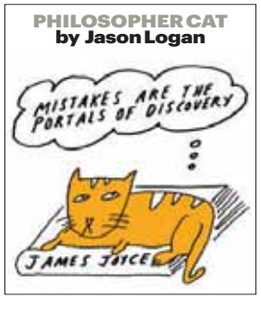

metro LIFE

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Killing Monica, to live again

CANDACE BUSHNELL

Sex and the City scribe tackles a woman's identity crisis

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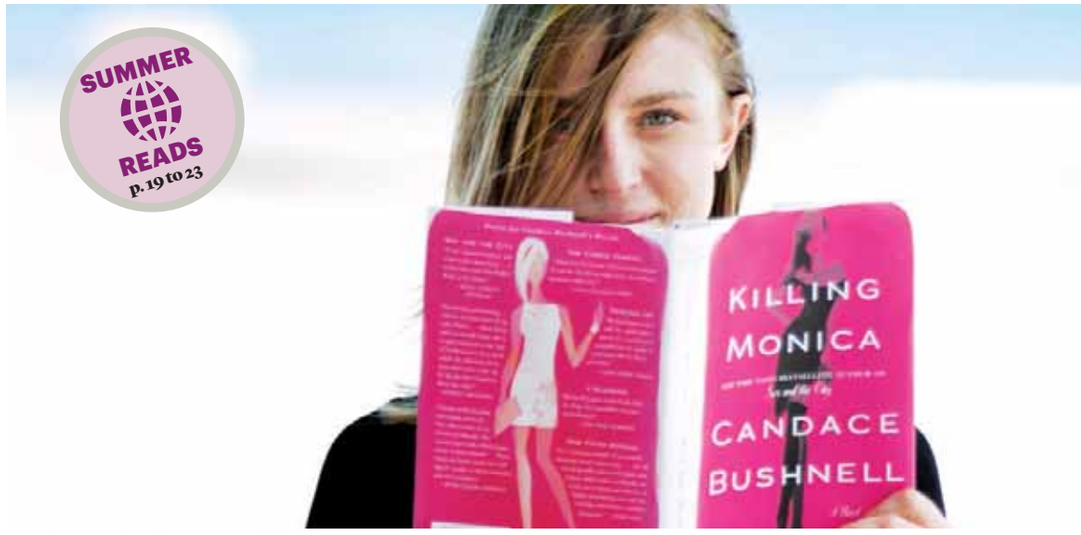

Candace Bushnell's new novel follows a successful woman intent on changing her life. STYLING AND PHOTO BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Tell me if you've heard this one before.

Pandy "PJ" Wallis is a famous writer whose books about the adventures of Monica, a swellegant New Yorker, are adapted for a series of blockbuster movies, starring SondraBeth Schnowzer as the beloved heroine.

Sound familiar? It's the starting point for Candace Bushnell's new book, Killing Monica (Grand Central Publishing, $30). Like a serpent swallowing its tail, Bushnell plunders the basic trajectory of the success of her bestseller Sex and the City for her latest narrative.

It's impossible not to see the parallels with the meteoric rise of the SATC franchise and its star Sarah Jessica Parker as Carrie Bradshaw, the barely disguised alter ego of Bushnell herself. But Bushnell has a couple of words for critics who see Killing Monica as a thinly veiled memoir: "cray cray." The idea is absurd, she says.

"It's all made up. I'm inclined to view (Killing Monica) as an artist. It's experimental, it's more surreal, and it's pushed much farther into farce. It's like an object that exists on its own. It exists outside of my life," says Bushnell.

"I wrote SATC and that was part journalism and part fiction, so that was like a reflection of my life, but I have not written one book since then where I put myself as the main character."

Bushnell, who gleefully skewers show biz in Killing Monica — the head of the film studio producing the Monica movies is nicknamed PP — says she was influenced by the 1963 epic comedy It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World.

"I see some of those scenes like that; they're just over-the-top."

While film producers and fans can't get enough of Monica, and SondraBeth, Pandy is so over both of them. With her marriage in tatters and soon-to-be ex Jonny Beluga desperate to get his hands on a hefty chunk of her Monica-money, Pandy launches a scheme to free herself from all of it — the Monica millstone, her former bestie SondraBeth and the greedy grasp of Jonny.

Zany as the book may be, Killing Monica covers familiar Bushnell territory: the social and interior lives of women. In the case of her latest novel, it's that moment when women seek to reinvent themselves, a pattern Bushnell has noticed among her female friends.

"There truly is a midlife crisis; it's an existential crisis," says Bushnell.

"I see people struggling with reinvention, because like a Monica, we all have created a perfect persona. Monica's always happy, nothing bad ever happens to Monica. While Monica's kind of persona has served us very, very well, when our younger persona no longer fits, it's a time when it's natural to ask once again, 'Why am I here?'

"Which makes sense if you consider that it comes at a time when your children are also leaving the nest. I think it's nature's way of saying, now you must be creative in a different way," she says. "That's how I see it."

WHAT'S IN BUSHNELL'S BOOK BAG?

"I'm going to be travelling, so I've got Primates of Park Avenue. But I've already jumped on it and read the whole thing," says Bushnell, laughing.

"You know, I don't know what I'm going to read. I'm definitely going to read Jennifer Weiner's (Who Do You Love), but I'll have to wait until August."

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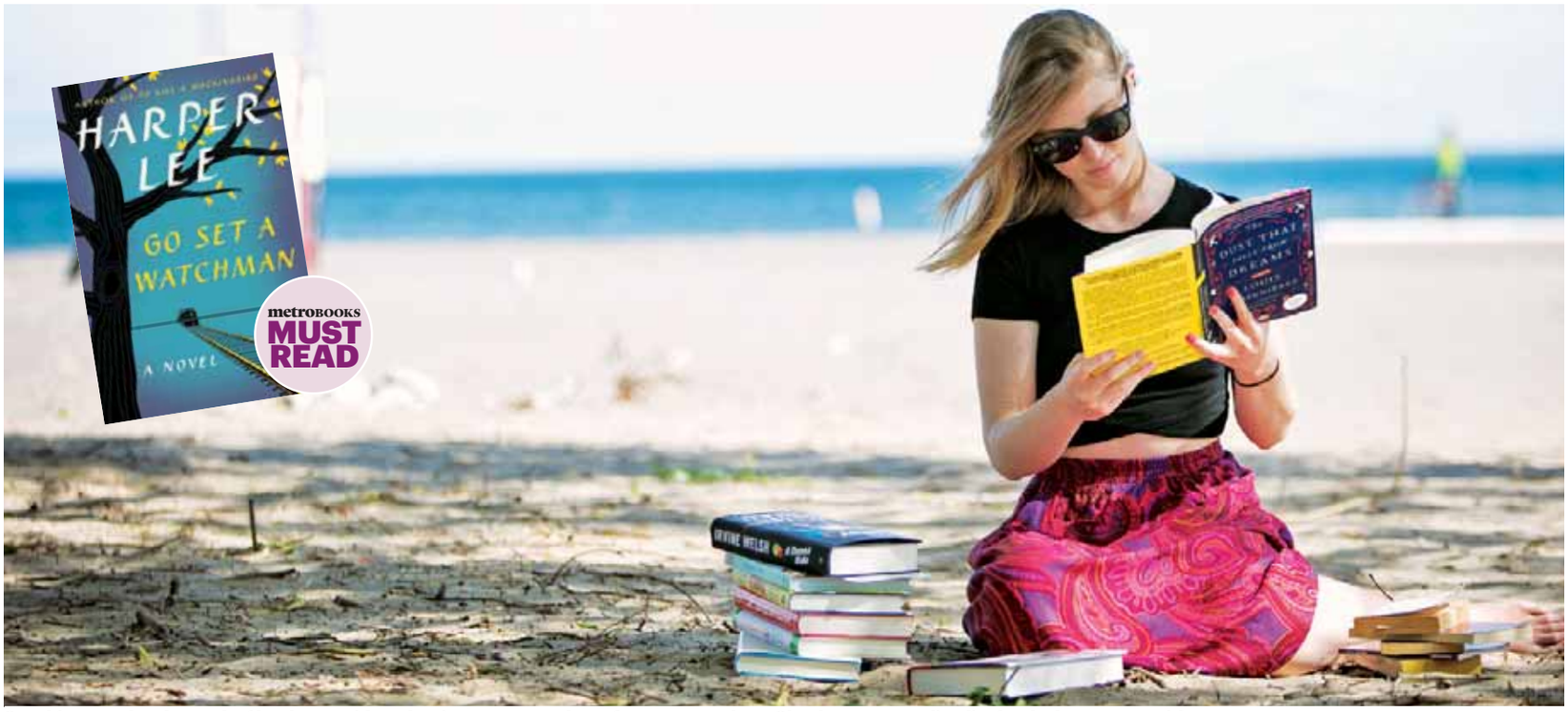


Sunshine, sand and a stack of books provide a classic way to spend carefree summer days. Check out our reading list for the hottest new titles. STYLING AND PHOTO BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Best summer reading of 2015

Lazy days in the shade spent with a good book are one of summer's great luxuries, but to indulge, you have to decide what to read first. Whether you're looking for romance, suspense or to be transported across the globe, these are the books that will do the trick.

METRO CANADA

FICTION

Eight Hundred Grapes by Laura Dave
When Georgia's fiancé reveals a shocking secret just days before their wedding, she flees home to California where her family owns a winery. There, she learns that her parents are splitting up and selling the estate. Pour yourself a glass of wine and settle in.

The Underwriting by Michelle Miller
Alternating chapters between several characters, this is an addictive novel about sex, greed and the duelling world of Wall Street versus Silicon Valley. Six 20-somethings are primed to make millions thanks to a crazy popular dating app, but success comes at a price.

Under Fire by Tom Clancy
Though Tom Clancy passed away in 2013, his suspenseful franchise lives on, thanks to his co-author Grant Blackwood. This book follows the president's son, who sets out on a heart-pounding mission after an old friend delivers him a cryptic message.

Boo by Neil Smith
A book about friendship and finding your place in the world, Boo follows the adventure of eighth-grader Oliver "Boo" Dalrymple who finds himself suddenly in a strange land.

Love May Fail by Matthew Quick
From the author of the Oscar-winning Silver Linings Playbook comes this new novel about a woman who escapes her ritzy life in Florida to return home to her shut-in mother in New Jersey.

Summerlong by Dean Bakopoulos
Summerlong is both smart and satisfying. Don and Claire are college sweethearts living in a Midwestern town. Three children later, their marriage is in trouble and the young coeds they have both separately met sure aren't helping things.

Remember Me This Way by Sabine Durrant
An eerie, exhilarating tale of marriage with a cast of great characters and ample plot twists, this dark novel is by the same author of the thriller Under Your Skin.

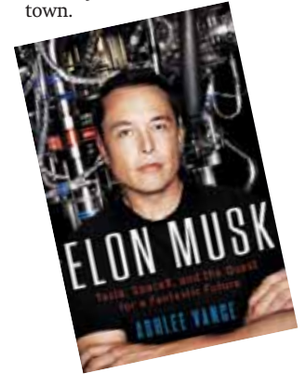
Alexandrian Summer by Yitzhak Gormezano Goren
Originally published in 1978 but now translated in English for the first time is a novel about two feuding Egyptian Jewish families. Set in 1951, it exposes sexual hypocrisies of the upper-middle class while hooking the readers with a dramatic storyline.

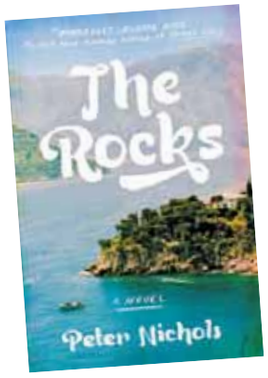
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
A girl with special powers must navigate a world of deadly court intrigue. Described as Game of Thrones meets X-Men — the book was instantly optioned for film by Universal and is on numerous must-read lists.

The Heir by Kiera Cass
The Bachelorette meets Cinderella as 35 men compete for the chance to marry a princess in this new story arc in Kiera Cass's internationally bestselling Selection series.

The Ultimatum by Dick Wolf
Law & Order creator Dick Wolf's new novel is about a detective tasked with hunting down a serial sniper who uses drone technology. The mystery novel will keep you guessing until the end.

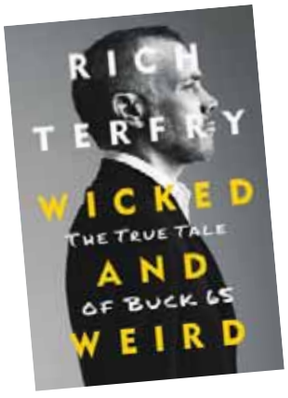
The Rocks by Peter Nichols
Misbehaving strangers struggle with a 60-year-old secret that drove two lovers apart in a tiny Mediterranean town.





Broken Promise by Linwood Barcley (out July 28)
The New York Times best-selling author is back with this story of a failed newsman who returns home with his nine-year-old son after the death of his wife only to discover a family secret of epic proportions.

China Rich Girlfriend: A Novel by Kevin Kwan
The author of Crazy Rich Asians is back with this story about Rachel Chu, who is about to marry Asia's most eligible bachelor only to discover some family secrets and a long lost father.



Miss Emily by Nuala O'Connor (out July 14)
This beautifully written book imagines a complicated and compelling relationship between one of America's most reclusive literary icons, Emily Dickinson, and her young Irish maid.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee (out July 14)
Harper Lee shocked book lovers everywhere when she announced she just so happened to have an unpublished sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird. The book features a now grownup Scout who is returning home to visit her father, Atticus.

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain (out July 28)
The Paris Wife author Paula McLain returns with Circling the Sun, set in 1920s Kenya. Beryl is a young woman, both bohemian and bold, who conquers everything from racehorse training to commercial piloting. The only thing she can't seem to control is her heart.

Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal (out July 28)
Stradal's debut novel is a mother-daughter tale about life and how food creates community and a gives you a sense of identity.

The Dust that Falls from Dreams by Louis de Bernieres (out Aug. 4)
From the author of the international bestseller, Corelli's Mandolin, this sweeping Edwardian-era saga follows the fortunes of four British sisters and their band of friends as their golden childhood in the English countryside comes to an abrupt end with the outbreak of the First World War.

FOR THE COTTAGE

Finders Keepers by Stephen King
Following the same heroes introduced in his book Mr. Mercedes, Finders Keepers is King's story of an obsessed reader whose interest in a reclusive writer goes too far. This is the first time King revisits the reader-author obsession since his book Misery.

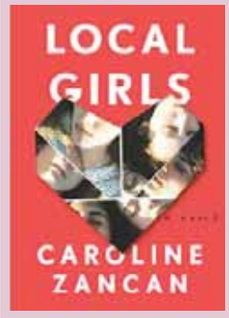
The Serpent Papers by Jessica Cornwell

The first book in Jessica Cornwell's The Serpent Papers is sure to entrance with the introduction of Anna Verco, a young researcher who soon finds herself discovering a world of alchemy, magic and secrets after a series of murders in modern-day Barcelona.

Maybe in Another Life by Taylor Jenkins Reid (out July 7)
In this tale reminiscent of the film Sliding Doors, a young woman's future hinges on the decisions she makes when she bumps into an old flame. The novel is told in alternating chapters as we see the two possibilities play out.

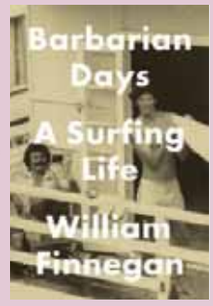
FOR THE BEACH

99 Days by Katie Cotugno
A perfect beach read, this book features a summer romance set in a small town while still tackling issues of girl-on-girl bullying and slut-shaming. Readers of John Green and Nicholas Sparks will enjoy this young adult novel.



Local Girls by Caroline Zancan (out June 30)
Caroline Zancan gifts us the friendship novel of the summer with this page-turner about four best friends, all 19 years old, and a hot movie star who shows up to their sleepy Florida town.

Barbarian Days by William Finnegan (out July 20)
An adventure story meets literary biography meets road movie meets exploration into the world of surfing in this novel which has made numerous best-of summer lists.

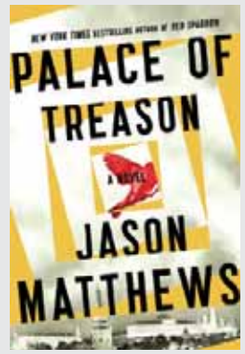


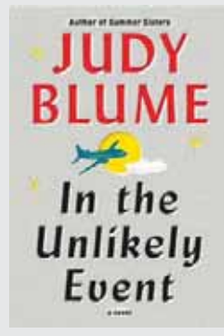
OYSTER PICKS

We asked Kevin Nguyen, the editorial director at Oyster (known as the "Netflix for books") what three releases he's excited about. He shares his picks below:

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald
"Helen Macdonald grapples with the death of her father by taking on the challenge of training a goshawk in one of the year's most devastating and cathartic memoirs."

Palace of Treason by Jason Matthews
"There's nothing better than a star-crossed Russian operative and a CIA agent for keeping you completely engrossed on a flight, beach or your hot summer subway ride. This followup to the bestselling 2013 thriller Red Sparrow might even make you wish you had a couple more stops so you could squeeze in a few extra pages."





In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume
"For readers who grew up with the classic Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret, Judy Blume's new adult novel brings Blume's signature style together with an intricate multi-generational story about how people deal with love and loss."

NON-FICTION

The Domino Diaries by Brin-Jonathan Butler
Journalist Jonathan Butler spills about his 10 years as a journalist in Cuba, largely covering the boxing scene. Even if you're not a boxing fan, you'll be mesmerized with this up-close look at Cuba's fascinating culture.

I Like You Just the Way I Am by Jenny Mollen
Actress Jenny Mollen wrote this laugh-out-loud book with R-rated stories from her personal life, including hiring a prostitute for her husband Jason Biggs's birthday. Expect your fellow commuters to lean over your shoulder to see what you're cackling at.

Twisted by Bert Ashe
Writer Bert Ashe chronicles his quest to grow dreadlocks while giving a cultural history of the hairstyle, from originating in Jamaica to making its way to the States. His is a welcome fresh voice, starting a conversation about black culture from a quirky, fun angle.

Elon Musk by Ashlee Vance
This authorized bio of Elon Musk will offer a look at one of Silicon Valley's most ambitious entrepreneurs. Expect to be enthralled by this Tony Stark-like figure in the same way biographies like Moneyball and Steve Jobs were captivating in the past.

Modern Romance by Aziz Ansari
An in-depth look at modern romance presented with comic insight, Ansari travelled the globe and spoke to hundreds to give us this unique take on love.

Empire of Deception by Dean Jobb
In the tradition of bestselling books like The Devil in the White City and The Man in the Rockefeller Suit, Jobb combines investigative journalism and captivating storytelling to examine one of the greatest con artists of the twentieth century.

Let's Be Less Stupid by Patty Marx (out July 14)
Subtitled "An Attempt to Maintain my Mental Faculties," this book finds the former Saturday Night Live writer confessing to her memory failures in an attempt to regain the mental acuity of her 22-year-old self.

Wicked and Weird: The Amazing Tales of Buck 65 by Rich Terfry (out Aug. 11)
The CBC radio host gives us a glimpse into the world of his alter ego, Buck 65, taking us from small town Nova Scotia to his success as a musician.

‘Steeped in style of another sort’

REVIEW

Asian diaspora isn’t usually featured in pop-lit genre

Matt Kwong
For Metro

As an Asian dude, I’m weak tea.

My Cantonese is a mess of Canadian-accented “Ching-lish.” The only Chinese script I can write (my own name) might be mistaken for a child’s careful scrawl. When I visited Hong Kong as a teen, my auntie chided me for walking like a Westerner.

It’s nothing that would make for a book, but lifestyles of the Asian diaspora generally aren’t typical narratives in pop-lit. Not unless they deliver some affecting truths about the “old ways” of the East disappearing amid assimilation into the new world (see: Wayson Choy’s The Jade Peony), or reach-for-the-Kleenex historical vignettes used to impart maternal wisdom (Amy Tan’s The Joy Luck Club).

But the breezy beach read? The guilty-pleasure chick lit? Even the fun but weird experimental stuff about the modern pan-Asian experience? That’s harder to come by.

So I can appreciate that two Asian authors, each publishing wildly different releases this summer, did it with over-the-top style.

In Toronto-based writer Jon Chan Simpson’s debut, Chinkstar, it’s the style of hip-hop bravado, comic-book action and noir set in a gang-ridden Red Deer, Alta.

Kevin Kwan’s buzzy China Rich Girlfriend is steeped in style of another sort.

Fresh off his success for 2013’s Crazy Rich Asians, Kwan’s followup returns to a world of Singapore society pages, couture gowns, ultra-exclusive Hong Kong supper clubs, Ferrari-crashing skirt-chasers and jet-setter billionaires competing to buy status antiquities.

Asian identity aside, Simpson and Kwan serve up a banquet of oddball characters in their books that just about any reader should find exotic.

The events in Chinkstar are set in motion after Run, a 17-year-old “halfchi” born by a Chinese mother and Scottish father, hunts for his missing older brother, emcee King Kwong, the rapper leader of a Tao-inspired doctrine called The Movement.

What begins as a whodunnit later assumes the character of a graphic novel without the art panels, packing in kung-fu violence and the kind of macho, portentous dialogue that brings to mind comics writer Frank Miller’s 1980s work on Batman.

Simpson, identified by Quill & Quire as a writer to watch, freestyles with language, reappropriating racial slurs and slang (“What up, slants?” a character greets another; “Chinkstas for life,” Run tells his mother).

“Gats” fire golden “caps,” men leer at “honeys” in the club, brawling characters eat “mad knuckle,” and a lot of four-letter words we can’t print here fill Simpson’s pages. If you can get past the lingo-heavy but lyrical prose — or read, as I did, with UrbanDictionary.com open in a tab — there’s a uniquely superfly story to be found.

Kwan’s China Rich Girlfriend weaves footnotes throughout, with translations for Hokkien swears, descriptions of Singaporean desserts, and helpful asides such as one informing us the Bugatti Veyron is the “fastest street-legal production car in the world.”

A cast of conniving, passive-aggressive aunties make for sharp social satire, with the nuptials of Rachel Chu and Nick Young driving a plot involving twisty family drama in some of Asia’s most opulent settings.

Kwan actually toned down some of the real-life spend-thriftness he encountered during his book research throughout China.

One way or another, it’s an entertaining look at an unbelievable world of consumption. Like the rap-infused Chinkstar, China Rich Girlfriend has more fun with swagger and style than on laying down life lessons or ancient Chinese wisdom. Genre fiction is probably richer for it.

Author Kevin Kwan’s latest has more fun with swagger and satire than on laying down life lessons or ancient Chinese wisdom. CHRIS YOUNG/FILE PHOTO

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Culture takes the rap

CROSS-CULTURAL MASHUP

Novel about Chinese hip-hop scene crushes stereotypes

BOOKWORM
Sue Carter

There's a balletic scene in Bruce Lee's final film, 1978's Game of Death, where the kung-fu legend spectacularly fights and (and kills) 7-foot-2-inch basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Cross-cultural mashups are nothing new in film and music, and yet when Jon Chan Simpson wrote a short piece about a Chinese rap scene while working on his creative-writing masters degree at University of Toronto, the pervasive reaction to his scenario was amusement.

"I found the response sad and disturbing, and a little weird," Simpson says. "This is what happens when two stereotypes are brought together, and it doesn't fit with what people think of them. It's similar to the reason that people find rapping grannies funny."

Simpson realized he was onto a bigger idea about cultural perceptions than a short story could explore, and began writing what would become his debut novel, Chinkstar, publishing in July with Coach House Books. Set in Simpson's hometown of Red Deer, Alta., the story follows Run, a Chinese-Scottish misfit living in the shadow of his brother Kwong, the reigning lord of the city's thriving chinksta rap scene.

While Red Deer isn't the most obvious location for a fictional Chinese hip-hop community, Simpson's decision to place his story there is a subtle nod to the entire province being on the cusp of radical political change. "Alberta strikes me as this place you don't think something could happen until it does," he says.

Jon Chan Simpson CONTRIBUTED

When Kwong goes missing and his mother is hit with a stray bullet, Run reluctantly searches for his sibling, while attempting to dodge rival gangs and repeated punches to the face. The book's relentless energy and comics-style violence owes as much to Lee's deadly side kicks as Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's Rush Hour franchise, and repeated listenings to Wu-Tang Clan and gangsta rap.

Simpson also studied freestyle rhymes, examining the improvised language closely, which he says turned out to be a great lesson in writing and poetry, and provides some of the book's most entertaining wordplay: "You know they sayin' it's a white man's world and that rap be black music, / but like a fine oolong I be here to infuse it."

While Chinkstar could easily be read as a fun action-movie mashup in itself, on another level, the book asks us to examine our own reactions to accepted cultural stereotypes.

"What happens when one racialized group expresses itself in the voice of another racialized group?" asks Simpson. "My hope is to start a conversation."

> **What happens when one racialized group expresses itself in the voice of another racialized group? My hope is to start a conversation.**
> Jon Cham Simpson, author of Chinkstar

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4 TOP LOOKS FROM MILAN FOR MEN

Here are some highlights from the men's shows in Milan for next spring and summer, including Armani, Calvin Klein, Ferragamo and Prada (which included women in their menswear runway). TEXT AND PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERRAGAMO

Whimsy in the wild

Massimo Giornetti reached for a youthful audience with an idiosyncratic collection that included off-kilter graphic prints of cacti and monkeys, bold colour panels on suits and pinstripes dressing up bomber jackets.

For the more traditional customer, there were double-breasted and single-button suit jackets, often paired with more adventurous colour-block tops. Giornetti tapped the brand's leatherwear DNA with an ultra-luxurious graphic shirt that appeared to be panels of brightly coloured crocodile.

ARMANI

Easy and breezy

Armani's warm-weather styles for 2016 communicate comfort and lightness, from the elegant, light fabrics to the comfortable, roomy cuts to the easy way of dressing. An off-skew vest is all the shirt an Armani man needs under his jacket. Colours were cool Mediterranean blues, with shades of nude and grey.

The trouser defined the look. Roomy pleated pants had three lengths: ankle, cropped at mid-calf or pedal pushers, ready to hop on a city bike like one pushed down the runway by a model.

CALVIN KLEIN

Practical magic

Is there anything more refreshing to the fashion palate than blue jeans, a white T-shirt and a pair of well-cut khaki coloured trousers that aren't chinos? It's back to basics at Calvin Klein, where men's creative director Italo Zucchelli presented a utilitarian collection that works for the man, and not the other way around.

The mainly monochrome looks featured T-shirts or sweaters with suit jackets and tailored trousers, or for more casual outings simply T-shirts with jeans or trousers with big tablet-size pockets, usually cuffed.

PRADA

A modest presence

Miuccia Prada says her menswear collection explores the role of modesty in an era that requires self-promotion.

The men's looks had a slouchy feel, such as silken shirts open to the belt and haplessly tucked in. The looks were paired with trousers with contrasting pockets or loose-fitting short shorts.

The female models, who have been included in Prada's menswear shows in recent seasons, sported a neater look with pleated skirts in contrasting panels and striped sweaters with pointy shoes.

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CARDEL HOMES

CHANNING'S LIKE, "G.I. NO"; LINDSAY WANTS TO START OVER IN LONDON TOWN

Channing Tatum really hated G.I. Joe

Channing Tatum has done a pretty great job of maintaining his loveable nicest guy in Hollywood image, but apparently he isn't chipper and cheerful about everything. And one particular kids cartoon franchise-starter left a very bad taste in his mouth. "Look, I'll be honest. I f—ing hate that movie," he tells Howard Stern about G.I. Joe: the Rise of Cobra, Tatum's first big action flick and part of a three-picture deal with Paramount. "The studio calls up and they're like, 'Hey, we got a movie for you. We're going to send it to you.' And it was right during the writers' strike. And it's G.I. Joe. I'm like, 'Look, G.I. Joe? I love G.I. Joe. Can I play Snake Eyes?' And they're like, 'No. You're not playing Snake Eyes.' 'Hey, you're doing this. You're doing this or we're going to sue you.'" If that's not bad enough, doing that film didn't really get him the kind of attention he was looking for. "The Coen Brothers aren't watching G.I. Joe," Tatum says.

LiLo is teasing us about London move again

It's a new season, the equinox is behind us, so obviously we're due for another bout of Lindsay Lohan going on and on about how amazing London is and she's totally thinking of making it her new home. "I can definitely see myself settling in London permanently," she tells Hello! Magazine. "I'm in a really good place. I'm blessed to have been able to do a play in London and start a different way of life. New York is very fast paced and it's not like that over here for me. You grow up and change, and I'm really happy about that, as overall I feel a lot better. For me, I feel more comfortable working from London." You know what, Ms. Lohan? We don't like empty promises. Stop talking about never coming back to the States already and just do it.

Johnny Depp, dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow from the Pirates of the Caribbean. GETTY IMAGES

Studio tells Depp to get shipshape

FILMING

Apparently the captain's been having a bit too much rum

IN HOLLYWOOD
Ned Ehrbar

Johnny Depp has apparently been causing more problems on the set of the new Pirates of the Caribbean beyond getting into trouble for smuggling terriers.

Studio bigwigs reportedly staged an intervention to get Depp to knock off the partying he's been doing and take the job seriously, according to the National Enquirer.

"They've told him in no uncertain terms that he needs to clean up his act and concentrate on making the movie. He had a big sit-down with the head of Disney Pictures, as well as producer Jerry Bruckheimer, his agents and a few close friends," a source says.

> **Basically, they told Johnny he had to get his act together.**
> Source

"Basically, they told Johnny he had to get his act together. Johnny apologized to the crew and producers when he finally got back to Australia from L.A."

Not only that, he also reportedly hired a sober coach to help him out. None of this, of course, explains why we need another Pirates of the Caribbean movie, but I suppose we can't have everything.

MEMORABILIA MUSEUM

Take a walk in the world of Seinfeld

Seinfeld fans are getting an open invitation into Jerry's apartment.

Hulu has teamed up with production shop Magnetic Collaborative to remake Jerry Seinfeld's TV apartment for the iconic show's Wednesday release of all nine seasons on the streaming video service.

Hulu created a free memorabilia museum with the world-famous Upper West Side apartment re-located in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. Seinfeld lovers can walk through a real-life model of the apartment and see different set items such as the Monk's Cafe table and booth, the Festivus Pole and George Costanza's photo shoot set from different episodes. There is also a canvas "brick wall" full of signatures from the show's many stars, guests and crew.

Larry Thomas, who played the memorable Soup Nazi, believes Seinfeld remains popular because of the show's relationships and the crazy situations its main characters — Jerry, Kramer, Elaine and George — found themselves in.

"What Seinfeld really was about was these people, the way they treat each other, the way they treat the world and, you know, the way the world treats them, and it had nothing to do with the '90s or the technology or some of the other things," Thomas said.

The '90s sitcom was a ratings success during its NBC run from 1989 to 1998, and TV Guide named it the greatest television program of all time in 2002.

The pop-up exhibit is open through Sunday at Milk Studios. Admission is free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hulu's recreation of the Seinfeld apartment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME
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The larger the room, the more depth its wall colour needs: Hunter Douglas

What they're a$king

OUR CITY

This week, Metro looks at three-bedroom, resale condominium townhomes. These dwellings have the luxury of space to suit a growing family, without the cost of a large home, and the convenience of maintenance-free condo living. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

$405,000

Calgary

This two-storey townhome is located at 47-3302 50 St. N.W., on a quiet street in the Varsity Village neighbourhood. The home features a bright main floor, with new hardwood and carpeting. There's a large kitchen, a separate dining area, and a bright living room with fireplace and balcony. The kitchen has been updated with large windows and patio doors. The master bedroom with ensuite has plenty of closet space. Transportation is at the door, and the Market Mall is across the street. Bryon Howard is a sales representative for RE/MAX House of Real Estate, 403-589-0004.

$299,500

Halifax

This townhouse in the Clayton Park area has many upgrades. With two and a half baths, it's a good size for a growing family. The house features a large living room, a spacious eat-in kitchen with new granite countertops, and a walkout to an outdoor deck. The upper level boasts a large master bedroom, with a walk-in closet and a newly renovated ensuite. The two spare rooms are bright with lots of closet space. Listing agent is Thomas Bagogloo from the Bagogloo Team, RE/MAX nova, 902-830-9006.

$319,900

Ottawa

Here's a townhouse in the Village Green neighbourhood, close to all of Kanata's amenities. Built in 2004, it has three bathrooms on two levels. Kitchen upgrades include granite countertops, an undermount sink and ceramic tile backsplash. The dining room has hardwood floors, a fireplace and patio doors to a large covered deck. The double tandem garage has been converted to a storage room and workshop. Listing agent Geoff McGowan is a sales representative with RE/MAX Affiliates Realty, 613-216-1755.

$400,000

Toronto

Located in a peaceful downtown setting, this open-concept, two-storey townhome resides in the King West neighbourhood. It boasts more than 1,000 sq. ft. of living space, including a large, private patio and gardens. Transit friendly, the home is close to the shops and entertainment choices of Queen West and Liberty Village. Extras include a stainless-steel fridge, oven, microwave, dishwasher and washer-dryer. Listing agent James Benson is with Keller Williams Advantage Realty, 416-465-4545.

$335,900

Winnipeg

Here's a 1,500 sq. ft. condo townhouse in the heart of the Royalwood neighbourhood. The home features a large great room and a tiled electric fireplace. The kitchen boasts cappuccino kitchen cupboards and a breakfast bar. The dining room has a patio door leading to the deck. Upstairs is a master with an ensuite and walk-in closet, and the finished lower level has a rec room. The location is close to bus routes, schools and shopping. Lisa Raymond is a sales representative with The Property Exchange Group Inc., 204-298-8975.

$224,900

Edmonton

This corner townhouse is one of the largest units in the Brentwood Village complex at almost 1,300 sq. ft. There are two large bedrooms upstairs, along with a master and renovated bathroom. The main floor features a large living room with new laminate floors. The kitchen has been renovated with mocha cabinetry and plenty of counter space, and there's a fully finished basement. The location is close to shopping and transit. Brent MacIntosh is a sales representative with Re/Max River City, 780-464-0075.

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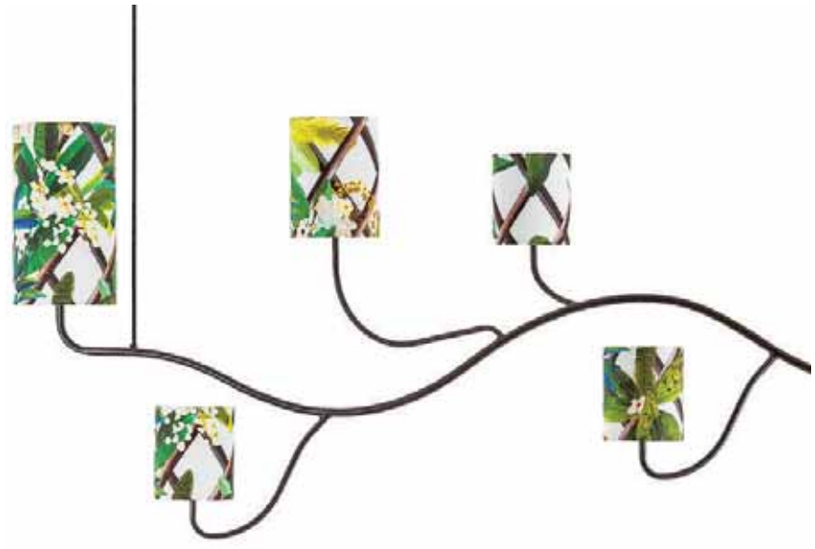

The 'Frondaison' chandelier. FORESTIER

Lacroix lightens up

DECOR

Design house teams up with company on lighting

The home division of Maison Lacroix is collaborating on a collection with lighting company Forestier.

This collaboration has birthed four pieces: the Frondaison chandelier, the Jeune pousse table lamp, the Branchages wall lamps and the Arbuste floor lamp.

They are all dressed in Christian Lacroix cloth, edited by Designers Guild. The two print options are Canopy, a graphic recreating a trellis and colourful tropical flowers, and Barbade, a graphic print of wickerwork weaving.

The lamps, halfway between craftsmanship and design, are the creations of Sacha Walckhoff. "We had fun trying to come up with lighting objects that evoked plant life but also had very contemporary lines," he adds.

Founded in 1987, the Christian Lacroix couture house moved away from fashion in the 2000s, though the designer continues to create outfits for the performing arts. His name is still used for the stationery and decoration lines.

Forestier, a French lighting company, has collaborated with renowned designers before, including Christian Ghion. AFP

LEFT: The 'Branchages' wall lamps.

RIGHT: The 'Jeune pousse' table lamp.
FORESTIER

DESIGN

Japan holds toilet creation contest

Japan is holding its first ever toilet design contest, with a government panel seeking "most comfortable," "cheapest for the developing world" and "safest for women," officials have said.

"I hope efforts to make the world's best restrooms in Japan will spread broadly," said Haruko Arimura, minister in charge of women's empowerment.

"It is part of our efforts with hospitality for the (2020 Tokyo) Olympic and Paralympic Games," added Arimura, who is also overseeing the competition.

A 145-page report on improving quality of life claims the drive towards better bogs will "empower women" because by "improving comfort, cleanliness and safety, the quality of work and leisure can improve dramatically."

Applicants have until the end of the month to submit their designs, which will be judged by a seven-person panel.

Arimura will announce the winners in September. AFP

Smart extras cater to guests

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

Whether you have summer guests visiting on a regular basis at the cottage, or are playing the short-term rental game in the city, here's a few super-smart items that will get you and your guests through those short-term stays.

1 Indoor/Outdoor Electric Barbecue Grill
No need to worry about a gas or propane supply. Also great for those "no-propane" condo balconies. $129, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

2 Beantown Bedding Laundry-Free Linens
Soft and luxurious bedding that can be disposed at the end of a stay (and its compostable). From $29, Amazon.com

3 Lunch Bag Mini Container Set
Bring just enough hotdog toppings for the weekend. $8/four-bottle set, GoldasKitchen.com

4 Keurig 2.0 K200 Brewing System
Brew a cup or a carafe without the mess of grinding beans and finding paper filters. $120, Keurig.ca

5 Weiser Powerbolt 1000 Electronic Deadbolt Lock
No keys to lose and once guests are gone their secret code can be deleted. $100, Weiserlock.com

6 GE Plug-In 24 hour Mechanical Timer
Ensure lights are turned on and off in a timely manner. $16, HomeDepot.ca

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metro SPORTS

Multiple reports have Kevin Love opting out of his contract to enter free agency

Thursday, June 25, 2015

IN BRIEF

CFL, players' union vow to strengthen drug policy

The CFL and CFL Players' Association said Wednesday they will meet to strengthen the league's drug policy after it came under heavy criticism from the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Neither side said when the meetings would begin.

On Monday, WADA director general David Howman said the league needed to overhaul its system that undermines drug education of amateur athletes by failing to suspend players who test positive while competing in other leagues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada defender Moscato denies low-morale remark

Veteran defender Carmelina Moscato has dismissed comments attributed to her that morale in the Canadian camp is poor at the Women's World Cup.

Former Canadian international Christine Latham, now working as a TV analyst, said prior to the TV broadcast of the Canada-Swiss game that Moscato had told her there were problems in the camp.

Latham said Moscato was also concerned about Canada's starting 11 selection. Moscato rebutted the comments saying Latham had misrepresented her words.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Estrada giving up almost nada with Jays these days

Marco Estrada made a run at history for the second consecutive start and came up just short again.

Estrada lost his bid for a perfect game on Logan Forsythe's infield single with one out in the eighth inning, but Chris Colabello homered in the 12th to lift the Toronto Blue Jays over the Tampa Bay Rays 1-0 on Wednesday.

Estrada also carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning of his previous start Friday against Baltimore. This time, he struck out 10 and threw a career-high 129 pitches.

"He's been on some kind of roll," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Job still not finished?

CFL SEASON PREVIEW

Stamps look for more titles to go along with consistency

The defending Grey Cup champion Calgary Stampeders say they're driven to be remembered for more than what they did in 2014.

The Stampeders have been perennial contenders in their seven seasons under head coach and general manager John Hufnagel, winning more regular-season games (88) than any Canadian Football League team during that span.

However, despite posting or tying for the season's best record five times under Hufnagel, the Stampeders had one Grey Cup win (2008) heading into the 2014 season. The battle cry throughout last year was to "finish the job" — which they did, with a 20-16 win over Hamilton in the championship game.

Calgary's slogan for 2015 is "Defend Our Cup, Whatever It Takes." If they are successful, the Stampeders would be just the third team in the last 34 years to win back-to-back CFL championships.

"One Grey Cup is great, but the teams we've had, you want to start building a legacy," Stampeder fullback Rob Cote said.

The Toronto Argonauts (1996-97) and Montreal Alouettes (2009-10) are the only repeat champions since 1982, when the Edmonton Eskimos capped a run of five.

Cote, from nearby Cochrane, Alta., is among a group of seven- and eight-year Stampeders who are proud of their two Grey Cup rings, but feel it takes a cluster of championships to go down in history as a special team.

"Since I've been here, we've been a very successful team and consistent, but with that, 'Hey, they have a bunch of wins, but how many championships do they have?"' linebacker Juwan Simpson said.

"Once you start adding championships to the picture, that's when you become great. You definitely want to be a part of something like that."

The Stampeders will look to build on the two Grey Cups they've won under head coach John Hufnagel by repeating as champions in 2015. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

> **"Once you start adding championships to the picture, that's when you become great.**
>
> Linebacker Juwan Simpson

Hufnagel, 63, will hand the coaching reins to offensive coordinator Dave Dickenson after this season and continue as general manager.

The Stampeders have returning Grey Cup starters in all but five positions making them contenders to win again in Hufnagel's last season on the sideline.

Grey Cup MVP Bo Levi Mitchell established himself as a winning quarterback in his first season as Calgary's No. 1. Drew Tate is one of the most experienced backups in the league.

Running back Jon Cornish won a third straight rushing title despite playing just nine regular-season games due to injuries.

"I was a captain last year and I played half the games during the regular season. I'm not proud of that," Cornish said.

"When I was on the field, I did pretty much exactly what I wanted to do. If I can take the things I've developed over time to get me ready for a game and play 18 games, the sky is the limit."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEEK 1 PICK

Ticats at Stampeders, 7 p.m. Friday

A Grey Cup rematch after the Stampeders beat the Tiger-Cats 20-16 at B.C. Place last November.

Hamilton returns 22-of-24 starters from last year's squad. The only missing defensive starter is a big one, all-star cornerback Delvin Breaux, who signed with the New Orleans Saints. Calgary's Bo Levi Mitchell, the Grey Cup MVP, again leads a potent Calgary offence that includes rushing leader Jon Cornish.

Pick: Calgary

NHL AWARDS

Byng winner Hudler kicks back in Vegas

Jiri Hudler's brand-new shoes were too stiff. Winning the Lady Byng Trophy fit perfectly.

The Calgary Flames forward beamed about being the first native of the Czech Republic to win the award given for sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct.

"I know Wayne Gretzky won it five times," Hudler said. "I know it started in 1925. And, I know I'm the first Czech player to win it, and that is all I care about."

Hudler thought Czech legend Jaromir Jagr must have won the award, but the future Hall of Famer told him he was always a fighter and took a lot of hooking penalties.

The 31-year-old had just 14 penalty minutes this season and finished eighth in scoring with a career-high 76 points. His peak came in March when he had 23 points and helped lift the Flames into a playoff spot.

Calgary coach Bob Hartley was also honoured Wednesday night with the Jack Adams Award.

Hudler bought a new suit when he arrived in Las Vegas and during the awards show couldn't handle the stiffness of his shoes anymore. He took the stage wearing only bright Flames red socks.

"I was sitting there for an hour and half," Hudler said with his shoes still off. "I thought Lady Byng was going to be first trophy, but it's not. Obviously it is the most important one."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRICE'S EPIC TRILOGY

Montreal's Carey Price was the biggest winner at the NHL awards on Wednesday, capturing the Hart Trophy, Vezina Trophy and Ted Lindsay Award.

Price became the first goaltender since Dominik Hasek in 1998 to be named MVP, top goaltender and most outstanding player as voted by the NHLPA.

Jiri Hudler with the Lady Byng trophy on Wednesday in Las Vegas. GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Chicken Kebobs

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
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Ready in
Prep time: 12 minutes
Cook time: 18 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 2 tsp crushed garlic
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 4 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp water
- 3/4 lb lean chicken cut into cubes
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into sixteen 1-inch pieces
- 1 small white onion, cut into sixteen 1-inch pieces
- 16 small mushrooms

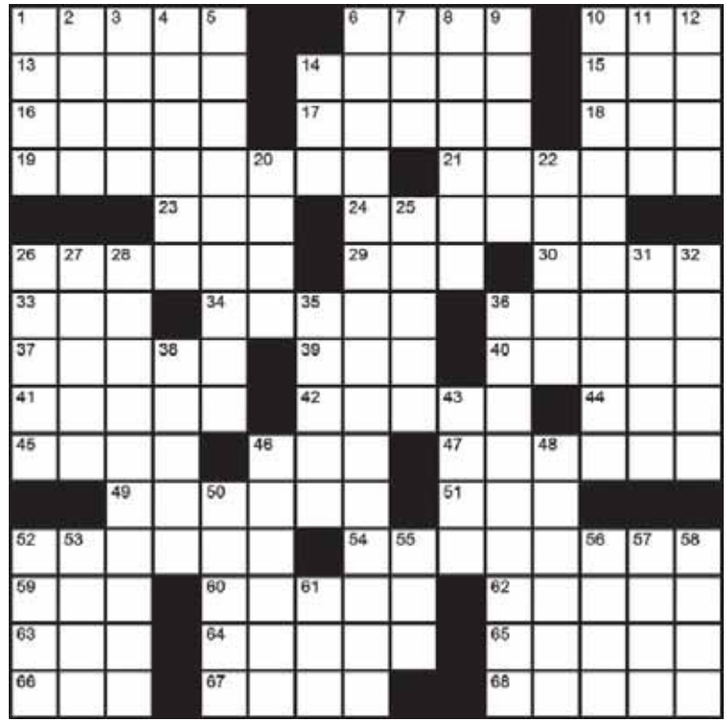
Directions
1. Combine the soy sauce, vinegar, honey, garlic, sesame and vegetable oils and water in a bowl. Add the chicken and marinate for 15 minutes.
2. Spray the barbecue with cooking oil and preheat to medium-high. Remove the chicken from the marinade. Place the marinade in a small saucepan and whisk in the cornstarch until dissolved. Cook over medium-low heat for five minutes until thick and syrupy. If too thick, add a little water. Set half of the sauce aside.
3. Thread the chicken, green peppers, onions and mushrooms alternately onto eight metal skewers. Barbecue, turning and brushing with half of the marinade frequently, for 10 to 15 minutes, or until cooked through and no longer pink. Serve with the remaining marinade on the side.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 199

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
6. ...six, __, huit....
10. Poetic contraction
13. "It's __ __ the Game" by Tommy Edwards
14. Actress Maria
15. Lance of 1990s judging
16. Weather mixture
17. Make a party platter faux pas
18. Novel
19. In Edmonton, it has a man-made lake: William __ Park
21. "__ Street"
23. JD __, Canadian rapper
24. Not-present status
26. Rocker brothers Joel or Benji
29. Bzzz-er
30. Dethrone
33. Stray
34. Vaults
36. Maison's entrance
37. Music hits list
39. Swallowed
40. Sleep __
41. Pens
42. Speak
44. Corn unit
45. Perched on
46. 'Meth' suffix
47. Fierce weather events
49. Drink of the gods
51. Group of Seven painter Mr. Jackson, et al.
52. Rent out your apartment
54. "Cityline" lifestyle/DIY expert, __-__ Allaire Perrault
59. Cubed food flavouring brand
60. Unexpressed, but understood
62. Jack of "The Texas Rangers" (1936)
63. Mauna __ (Hawaiian volcano)
64. Petty quarrels
65. Endor inhabitants
66. Food fragment
67. 'Susp' suffix
68. Wives of rajas

DOWN
1. Scratcher's woe
2. Ms. Fitzgerald
3. Ball of yarn
4. In layers
5. Pastimes
6. People immigrate to Canada because they what?: 4 wds.
7. Yore
8. Puckered clothing fabric
9. Pith helmet
10. Bryan Adams' duet partner on "It's Only Love": 2 wds.
11. Thingy
12. Actor Rob
14. Lingerie purchase
20. Ms. Del Rey
22. Poke around
25. Badger
26. Holy birthplace of Muhammad
27. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
28. June 25th-28th, 2015: Tim Hortons Ottawa __ __ Festival
31. Prepare, as broccoli
32. New Wave duo, __ For Fears
35. Flora's friend?
36. RSVP-respondent, for example
38. Drive off bugs
43. Mr. Morales
46. Achieve
48. Lake Ontario city
50. Feminine 'this' in French
52. Alone
53. Wife: Latin
55. Sci-Fi beings
56. 'Konvicted' rapper
57. Ms. Taylor of modelling
58. 'Smart' suffix
61. Princess Leia portrayer ...her initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
How you choose to react to challenging events will determine just how challenging they are. The most important thing today is that you keep your composure no matter how annoyed you may be. If you lose your temper you lose the battle too.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You may not be the type to watch what you say but the planets warn this is not a good time to upset people for the sake of it. The closer you get to the weekend the more you need to watch your choice of words.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Do you accept a small loss now or do you take a chance and risk a bigger loss later on? That decision must be made now, because if you don't decide then someone else will for you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
No matter what happens today you must not let anything, or anyone, get to you. Not that anything drastic is likely to occur but if something upsets you then common sense could easily fly out the window.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You seem so easily provoked of late. Why is that? Whatever the reason you must make a conscious effort to control your responses today, because if you go too far you will make enemies of people who should be friends.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be tempted to act in ways that run contrary to your beliefs today, but whatever the material rewards they won't make up for the fact that you have strayed from your principles. Always be true to yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Libra is a cardinal sign, which means you like to compete, and with Mars moving through the career area of your chart you are in no mood to take prisoners. But know your limits. Don't start fights you cannot possibly win.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Although you want to be on the move, some type of restrictions are likely to hold you back between now and the weekend. That's okay — if you start your journey too soon you may go in the wrong direction.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to get serious about your money situation. You may be tempted to take a risk of some kind and bet against the odds but if you do you could end up even more out of pocket than you are now.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to get tough with someone who is getting emotional for no good reason. If you let them carry on they will not only make a fool of themselves but could annoy people in positions of power.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't let your pride get in the way of asking for advice or assistance today. No one expects you to be good at everything so there is no need to expect it of yourself. A little bit of honesty now could save a lot of embarrassment later on.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You would be wise not to take too much for granted today. If you push your luck you could find you have gone over the edge and there is no way back.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			5	8	1			
7		5		6		3		2
6	3		7		2		8	5
1	5		4		6		2	9
9		7		4		6		8
			6	1	3			

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